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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 140 (a) appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/51/753 and Add.1.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 64th, 65th, 67th and 70th meetings, on 27 and 29 May and 2 and 6 June 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.64, 65, 67 and 70).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General and a note by the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/51/890 and A/C.5/51/52) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/906 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.81

4. At the 70th meeting, on 6 June, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/51/L.81), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, and orally revised it by replacing operative paragraphs 14 to 17, which had read:

"[14. Approves also for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, a post at the P-5 level or higher and a P-4/3 level post to be supervised by and report directly to the Assistant Secretary-General for Planning and Support, and to be dedicated solely to processing the backlog of claims referred to in paragraph 35 of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and] requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly quarterly written reports on the progress made in eliminating the backlog;

"[15. Notes the Secretary-General's assessment that the backlog numbers _____ claims;]

"[16. Requests the Secretary-General, for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, to carry out lessons-learned activities within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with the staff at the level of one P-5, two P-4, one P-2 and one General Service personnel;]

"16 bis. Also requests the Secretary-General to use the remaining sums in the Lessons Learned Trust Fund to finance, to the extent possible, the costs of the posts approved in addition to the proposal presented in annex I.A, paragraph 30, to his report;[1]

"[17. Approves a funding level of 1 million United States dollars for rental of premises for both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other Secretariat departments and offices, bearing in mind the vacancy rate of other United Nations properties and the inconsistencies in past practices with leased properties funded by the support account]",

with the following text:

"14. Approves an appropriation in the amount of 158,500 United States dollars under general temporary assistance for the sole purpose of processing the backlog of claims referred to in paragraph 16 below;

"15. Endorses the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to create one P-4 post and one General Service post in the Claims and Information Management Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations,[1] and requests the Secretary-General to utilize the P-2 post proposed for redeployment to the Personnel Management and Support Service[2] for processing claims in the Claims and Information Management Section;

"16. Notes from the information provided by the Secretariat that the current backlog of death and disability claims is 564;

"17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly quarterly written reports on the progress made in clearing the backlog;

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[1] See A/51/906 and Corr.1, para. 22.

[2] See A/51/890, annex I.A, para. 35.

"18. Takes note of the usefulness of the lessons learned capacity, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, no later than 31 August 1997, for consideration during the third part of its resumed fifty-first session, proposals on resources and structure to strengthen the functions and to ensure the sharing and application of experience gained in peacekeeping operations;

"19. Approves an appropriation of 1 million dollars for the rental of premises;

"20. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments not exceeding 808,500 dollars for the rental of premises;

"21. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the performance report information on the use of resources provided for the rental of premises since 1992".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995, 50/221 A of 11 April 1996, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996 and 51/226 of 3 April 1997 and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] as well as the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee,[5]

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations,

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[3] A/51/890 and A/C.5/51/52.

[4] A/51/906 and Corr.1.

[5] See A/C.5/51/SR.70.

Noting the recent significant decline in peacekeeping expenditure, and recognizing that this should lead to a commensurate decline in backstopping requirements funded through the support account for peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases of peacekeeping operations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations;[3]

2. Also takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

3. Regrets the delayed submission by the Secretary-General of his report on the support account, and decides that his next report on the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, should be submitted no later than 31 March 1998;

4. Also regrets the non-compliance of the Secretary-General with the request in paragraph 8 of its resolution 50/221 B to submit a comprehensive proposal on the total requirement for human resources from all sources of funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

5. Emphasizes that it is necessary to have fully substantiated and comprehensive proposals for the total requirements for human and material resources from all sources of funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, including from the regular budget, trust funds and voluntary contributions, both in cash and in kind, during the period of the support account proposal;

6. Reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of its resolution 50/221 B, in preparing his annual proposals for the support account, and taking into consideration the temporary nature of the current level of resources, to review and substantiate comprehensively the entire post and non-post requirements for the support account; in preparing his report on the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, to submit a comprehensive proposal on the total requirement for human resources from all sources of funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, including posts financed from the regular budget and trust funds, officers on loan from Member States and other voluntary contributions during the period, to enable the General Assembly to decide on the level of human resources required; and to submit proposals that reflect as closely as possible the overall evolution of peacekeeping budgets and any additional relevant observations and recommendations regarding the lessons learned from the previous year of operation of the support account;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an in-depth evaluation and subsequent budgetary proposals that reflect as closely as possible the overall evolution of peacekeeping trends, including any relevant restructuring of the various divisions and units involved in backstopping activities, taking into

account the lessons learned from previous years' experience of operating the support account and the workload relating to closed and completed missions;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second regular session the evaluation portion of the above-mentioned report;

9. Regrets the lack of a performance report on the operation of the support account in the context of the annual consideration by the General Assembly of the proposals of the Secretary-General for the account, as requested in paragraph 6 of its resolution 50/221 B;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, in his report on the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, to submit a performance report, including information on redeployments, if any, between units, covering the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 and the period from 1 July to 31 December 1997;

11. Affirms the need for adequate funding for backstopping of peacekeeping operations;

12. Decides to maintain for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 the funding mechanism for the support account provisionally approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B;

13. Approves, for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to post and non-post resource requirements as contained in his report of 7 May 1997[6] as amended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33 and 37 of its report,[4] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

14. Approves an appropriation in the amount of 158,500 United States dollars under general temporary assistance for the sole purpose of processing the backlog of claims referred to in paragraph 16 below;

15. Endorses the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to create one P-4 post and one General Service post in the Claims and Information Management Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to utilize the P-2 post proposed for redeployment to the Personnel Management and Support Service[8] for processing claims in the Claims and Information Management Section;

16. Notes from the information provided by the Secretariat that the current backlog of death and disability claims is 564;

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[6] A/51/890.

[7] See A/51/906 and Corr.1, para. 22.

[8] See A/51/890, annex I.A, para. 35.

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly quarterly written reports on the progress made in clearing the backlog;

18. Takes note of the usefulness of the lessons learned capacity, and requests the Secretary-General to submit, no later than 31 August 1997, for consideration during the third part of its resumed fifty-first session, proposals on resources and structure to strengthen the functions and to ensure the sharing and application of experience gained in peacekeeping operations;

19. Approves an appropriation of 1 million dollars for the rental of premises;

20. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments not exceeding 808,500 dollars for the rental of premises;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the performance report information on the use of resources provided for the rental of premises since 1992;

22. Decides that officers in the Office of Operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations whose workload has been reduced owing to the ending of some peacekeeping operations should be detailed to assist in eliminating the backlog;

23. Reaffirms the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly in which it requested the Secretary-General to fill the vacant support account posts as soon as possible, in a manner consistent with those resolutions and the Staff Rules and Regulations;

24. Decides that posts funded from the support account shall be filled and managed in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Staff Rules and Regulations of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

25. Calls upon the Secretary-General to stop immediately the practice of giving personnel on short-term appointments consultant contracts for a short period and then rehiring them on short-term appointments in violation of the spirit of open and transparent recruiting practices;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to assign the functions referred to in paragraphs 16, 17 and 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[4] to personnel occupying approved posts and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, no later than 31 March 1998.